



# EXPOSING *the* ENEMY

## Exposing the Devil Jimmy Evans

**Focus** The devil is an accuser and tries to divide us from every redemptive relationship in our lives. His will is to separate every person from God, marriage, family, and the church and for us to live in rebellion against authority. But, we are equipped to overcome his accusations by the blood of Jesus and the Word of God.

**Fun** Did you attend a summer camp when you were young? If so, what was your favorite activity and why?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:1–5

### How the Devil Seeks to Divide Us and How to Expose and Defeat Him

#### 1. God and Us

*Genesis 3:1–5; 2 Corinthians 10:3–6; Revelation 12:10–12; Romans 8:1–4*

The devil accuses God to us every time we receive a negative report. He builds strongholds within our thinking to try to keep us from knowing God. When the devil whispers lies, we can combat them by taking those thoughts to Jesus. The devil also accuses us to God. But God listens to His Son, Jesus, who defends us, and the devil accuses us to ourselves with shouts of condemnation. We can know the difference between his voice and the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit's conviction is specific, loving, and helpful; however, condemnation is general with no way out.

#### 2. Us from Our Spouses

*Ephesians 4:26–27; Matthew 19:3–8*

Diabolos, the devil, deceives us with lies about our loved ones. When we go to bed with anger against our spouse or a family member, we open the door

to a hard heart toward that person. We can “devil proof” our heart by forgiving before we go to bed.

### 3. Us from Church

*Matthew 18:20*

There is a special anointing of God’s presence when we meet with other believers. It is an anointing of God’s power and protection. Because of this, the devil wants to keep us from those who encourage us in our walk with the Lord and from gaining the power of community with other believers.

### 4. Us from Authority

*Romans 13:1–4; 2 Timothy 3:1–5*

The devil is a rebel who hates authority and the protection it gives us. There is a covering when we are under authority, and because of this, the devil can’t touch us. He incites us to rebellion to prevent us from receiving this gift.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Divide into smaller groups of two or three for prayer. Often we are more vulnerable in a smaller group. Encourage the groups to share their requests as briefly as possible to allow more time to pray over one another.

## Discuss

1. Stealth is the devil’s secret weapon. In what ways does the devil use stealth to undermine our relationship with God?
2. Read Revelation 12:10–12. What does the devil do day and night in front of God? How do we overcome this?
3. Read Ephesians 4:26–27. How do we give place to the devil?
4. What are the benefits of gathering with other believers in a church setting and in a group setting?
5. Read Romans 13:1–4. What is the result of resisting authority? If we struggle with submitting to authority, we need to ask the Lord to reveal the lie we are believing from the devil. Confess the lie and walk in God’s truth.

6. When God created man, He said it was not good for man to be alone. How do relationships provide protection against the devil?

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Lord loves us and doesn't believe anything the devil has to say.
- We can choose to ignore the lies of the enemy and believe the truth of the Holy Spirit.
- We were created to need God and each other.
- Forgiveness is important in keeping the devil from destroying our relationships.
- There is a unique covering when we gather together as believers and submit to authority.
- We have been equipped to overcome.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for being mighty. Nothing can stand against You. Thank You for Your position of authority over the devil. We ask forgiveness for believing the devil's deceptive words. When the enemy comes to accuse us with lies, we commit to stand on Your Word. We trust Your love and kindness. You are a good Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Your group will grow in depth as you engage with one another outside of regular group meetings. One way you can encourage this type of connection is during weekend services. Take time for each group member to share which campus and service they attend. Encourage members to get together on the weekends for services and grow in these relationships.